

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
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EUR/CAN:CJCLEMENT  
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P:TMILLER (SUBS)  
EA/TIMBS:DFIELD  
EA/ANP:TWAJDA

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P R 081343Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0504

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOCI  
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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

REF: USUN 2221 BEING REPEATED

1. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO SUBMIT FACTUAL MATERIAL TO DOCUMENT  
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN

RIGHTS COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMISSION, WHICH WILL MEET IN AUGUST AND IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED ON CAMBODIA AT THAT TIME. WE HAVE ALREADY GATHERED USG PUBLIC STATEMENTS, RECORDS OF LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS, AND SOME AMERICAN PRESS REPORTS ON THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA.

2. IN ORDER TO PRESENT CASE WHICH COULD INDUCE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON CAMBODIAN SITUATION, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT DETAILED EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF REFUGEES. FRESH ACCOUNTS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA FROM REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED THAT COUNTRY RECENTLY (IN LATE 1977 OR IN 1978) WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO COUNTERACT ANY IMPRESSION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OCCURRED ONLY IN IMMEDIATE PERIOD OF END OF WAR/COMMUNIST TAKEOVER.

3. ACCORDINGLY, POST IS REQUESTED TO INSTITUTE ASAP NEW SERIES OF REFUGEE INTERVIEWS FOR PURPOSE OF COLLECTING AND SUBMITTING UNCLASSIFIED REPORTS ON CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. REFUGEES WHO AGREE TO TALK ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA SHOULD BE QUESTIONED ABOUT EXECUTIONS, OTHER STATE CONTROLS AND SANCTIONS, MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION, CONDITIONS OF LIFE, NUTRITION, POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS, AND EVIDENCE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. REFUGEES INTERVIEWED SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THESE REPORTS ARE FOR SUBMISSION TO UN HUMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIGHTS COMMISSION. NAMES OR OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY REFUGEE OR HIS FAMILY REMAINING IN CAMBODIA SHOULD NOT BE USED UNLESS REFUGEE SPECIFICALLY AGREES THAT HIS NAME MAY BE USED.

4. IN VIEW OF THE LEADERSHIP ON THIS SUBJECT ALSO TAKEN BY CANADA, U.K., AND AUSTRALIA, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF SUCH INTERVIEWS COULD BE CONDUCTED JOINTLY OR IN COORDINATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS IN THAILAND (AND POSSIBLY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AS WELL), IN ORDER TO MEET THE FALSE ALLEGATION THAT CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA IS FOSTERED BY A USG "DISINFORMATION" CAMPAIGN. WE SUGGEST BANGKOK EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY ON AN URGENT BASIS WITH CANADIANS, BRITISH, AND AUSTRALIANS.

5. REQUEST USUN FOLLOW UP TO THIS EFFECT WITH CANADIAN, BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS. REQUEST CANBERRA, LONDON AND OTTAWA VIEWS WHETHER FOLLOW-UP IN CAPITALS WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

6. WHETHER OR NOT A JOINT EFFORT CAN BE ARRANGED, WE

WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SECRETARIAT BY MID-JULY A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF CURRENT CAMBODIAN REFUGEE ACCOUNTS, REFLECTING CONDITIONS IN AS BROAD AN AREA OF THE COUNTRY AS POSSIBLE. WOULD APPRECIATE BANGKOK'S EARLY ASSESSMENT ON LIKELY AVAILABILITY OF REFUGEES FOR SUCH INTERVIEWS, WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED, AND LOGISTICS OF ARRANGING INTERVIEWS. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AT LEAST TEN UNCLASSIFIED SUBSTANTIAL ACCOUNTS TO HRC, AND RECOGNIZE MANY TIMES THAT MANY REFUGEES MAY HAVE TO BE INTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE WHICH ACCOUNTS WILL BE MOST USABLE. IN ADDITION TO CABLED REPORTS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE ORIGINAL PAPERS POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA TO BE GIVEN TO HRC.

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7. IF ANY REFUGEES HAVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF ANY KIND CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, OR IF THIS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES, THIS ALSO WOULD BE USEFUL. IF REFUGEES HAVE SCARS OR INJURIES FROM MISTREATMENT PERHAPS

THESE COULD BE PHOTOGRAPHED. CONCEIVABLY THEY MAY HAVE DOCUMENTS SUCH AS BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR RELATIVES WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY CAMBODIAN REGIME, WHICH THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO PROVIDE.

8. REQUEST BANGKOK ADVISE DEPARTMENT IF POLITICAL SECTION WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS SPECIAL INTERVIEWING OF REFUGEES IN THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD (WITH REPORTS TO BE SENT BY EARLY JULY).

9. DEPARTMENT GREATLY APPRECIATES EXCELLENT INTERVIEWING DONE AMONG CHINESE REFUGEES AS REPORTED IN BANGKOK 16202 (NOTAL) AND HOPES WORK OF SIMILAR QUALITY CAN BE DONE ON THIS URGENT REQUEST. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**To:** BANGKOK USUN NEW YORK MULTIPLE  
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